

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 504

By Stevens

A RESOLUTION to recognize Pastor Fred J. Ward on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with devotion, strength, and revelation to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Fred J. Ward is one such stalwart servant of the Lord, who has served for thirty years as pastor of First Baptist Church Huntingdon and is embarking on a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, born in Bemis on January 29, 1944, to Bobby and Tennie Ward, Pastor Ward began his service to the Lord when he was baptized at an early age at what is now the First Baptist Church of Bemis; and

WHEREAS, he had a successful career working at several businesses around Jackson, before accepting the rewarding call to the ministry in 1978, a decision that would allow him to touch the lives of countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Ward was ordained to the ministry in 1978 while attending Union University; he began his pastoral career at Mercer Baptist Church, and felt called to lead Unity Baptist Church before taking his current position as pastor of First Baptist Church Huntingdon; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, attendance in the church has increased to over 600 parishioners. In 1994, the church added new offices, seventeen classrooms, and a Family Life Center; the congregation moved into a new worship center in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Fred Ward has led his congregation with love and compassion, teaching them to live life in accordance to the word of God; and

WHEREAS, his many achievements aside, Pastor Ward is most grateful for the companionship he shares with his wife, Lois Hammons Ward; together they are the proud parents of three children, John Eric Ward, Grant Hammons Ward, and Emily Katharine Bullock; and

WHEREAS, the Wards are also the doting grandparents of seven grandchildren: Jana Rhodes, Rachel Ward Johns, Josh Ward, Cara Ward, Macey Ward, Micah Bullock, and Macon Bullock; and two great-grandchildren: Barrett Rhodes and Wyatt Johns; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Fred Ward exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, as a humble servant of God, Pastor Fred J. Ward has demonstrated the utmost compassion, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and his congregation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Pastor Fred J. Ward our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.